

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021



Second Sunday of Advent



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 🌐 pcucc.com



PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Ave Maria”

C. Gounod/J.S. Bach, Arr. Lorie Line

Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.

Greetings

Advent Candle Lighting—Peace †

- L: In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace.
- P: **Isaiah the prophet offered a vision of peace: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.” (Isaiah 11:6–9a)**
- L: Because of war, because of violence in our community, because of unrest in our hearts, because racism still plagues us, because agents of death continue to rally people to its destructive cause, because swords are still not beaten into plowshares, we light a candle of peace.
- P: **Make of our hearts a stable, to hear you in the stories of those who struggle. Help us to listen to the difficult call of your prophets and ignore the tempting, easy solutions of those who beckon us to worship at the altars of profit above people, fear, anxiety, and despair.**
- L: We light this candle of Peace, sending our prayers through an anxious world in turmoil and pain, as our protest that God intends us to be people of peace and to be people at peace.
- All: **May the light from this candle find shelter in people’s hearts to hear the message that God’s peace is coming and that we may know it now if only we would be willing to accept it. As we light this candle for peace, we pray for the courage to be people of peace and the courage to stand up for it against all forces that try to diminish or destroy it.**

Advent Invocation Verses 1 & 3

“Make of My Heart a Stable”

Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy
Make of my life a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy
Make of our church a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy

place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.
place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.
place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.

Text and music: Amanda Udis-Kessler

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The Service of the Word

Canticle of Zechariah

Luke 1:68–79

- L: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
- P: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**
- L: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
- P: to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**
- L: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.
- P: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

Hymn 108 Bulletin page 8

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”

Gospel

Luke 1:5–25, 39–45

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and

her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 123 Bulletin page 9

“Mary, Woman of the Promise”

Offering

“Gentle Mary, Tender Mary”

Deb Zehms

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self †§

**God of generosity, receive these gifts of our gratitude, the offerings of our lives.
Bless them for your use, and bless us with wisdom and peace to use them
faithfully to expand the stables of our hearts and of this church, that all your
people may know of your unending love. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 148 Bulletin page 10

“What Child Is This”

Benediction ☪

**L: May God's Door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.
P: May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already
know.**

L: And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine, making room in The Inn for all.
P: **May it be so for you. May it be so for us. May it be so for this church.**
All: Amen.

Sung Benediction Verse 2

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Postlude

“I Saw Three Ships”
Arr. Lorie Line

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- † adapted from SaltProject, used by permission, and the Christmas Appeal Candle Light Liturgy, used by permission of Christian Aid, and David Huber
- § Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Linda Oliver

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

Cross illumination for December is sponsored by John & Sandy Moore in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, December 5

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, December 7

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Dartball

Plymouth at Bethesda Gold

Sunday, December 12

Commitment Sunday

Prayers for the People

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

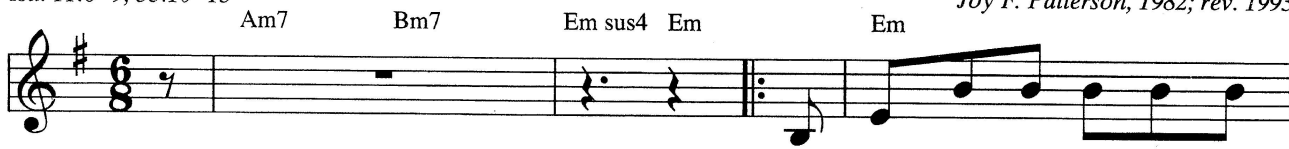
11:30 A.M. Pot luck

We pray for:

- The leadership and staff of Plymouth United Church of Christ

During December we are collecting food through December 19 for St. Francis Food Pantry. They are not putting together holiday meal kits, but traditional holiday foods would be welcome, such as: instant potatoes or stuffing; gravy packets/jars; canned vegetables; cream soups for casseroles; cake mix (or cornbread, muffins, or cupcakes); frosting; sprinkles; hot cocoa; canned fruit cocktail. Your donations need not be limited to these—all food items can be used. Money is also helpful. It allows them to buy more food from Feed My People than we could buy with the same money, but because of shortages and supply issues, they don't always have access to things that they would like, so food donations are helpful, too. Please bring your items to the church, and we will deliver them after December 19.

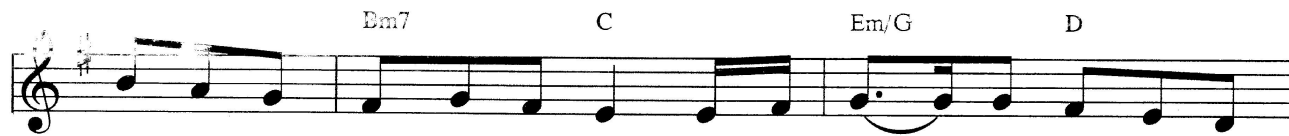
Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

*Isa. 11:6-9; 55:10-13**Joy F. Patterson, 1982; rev. 1993*

- 1 I - sa - iah the proph-et has
- 2 The moun-tains and hills shall break
- 3 Yet na - tions still prey on the
- 4 God, bring to fru - i - tion your



writ-ten of old how God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the
 forth in - to song, the peo - ples be led forth in peace; The earth shall be
 meek of the world, and con - flict turns par-ent from child. Your peo - ple de
 will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or de - stroy, That wis - dom and




thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the
 filled with the knowl-edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the
 spoil all the sweet-ness of earth; the brier and the thorn tree grow
 jus - tice shall reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in



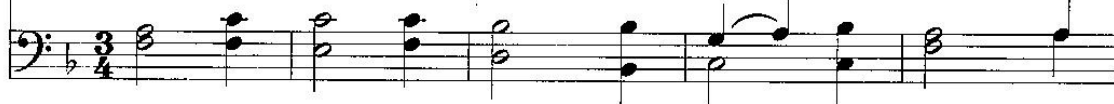
lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
 sea, the sea, as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.
 wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
 joy, in joy, your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

Joy Patterson, of Wausau, Wisconsin, served on the editorial committee for The Presbyterian Hymnal, 1990. This text was one of seven winning hymns published in New Hymns for Children by Choristers Guild and The Hymn Society of America.

Tune: JUDAS AND MARY Irr.
 Sydney Carter, 1964



1 Mar - y, wom - an of the prom - ise; ves - sel
 2 Mar - y, song of ho - ly wis - dom sung be -
 3 Mar - y, morn - ing star of jus - tice; mir - ror
 4 Mar - y, mod - el of com - pas - sion; wound - ed
 5 Mar - y, wom - an of the gos - pel; hum - ble




of your peo - ple's dreams: Through your o - pen,
 fore the world be - gan: Faith - ful to the
 of the Ra - diant Light: In the shad - ows
 by your off - spring's pain: When our hearts are
 home for trea - sured seed: Help us to be




will - ing spir - it wa - ters of God's good - ness streamed.
 Word with - in you, as you bore God's won - drous plan.
 of life's jour - ney, be a bea - con for our sight.
 torn by sor - row, teach us how to love a - gain.
 true dis - ci - ples, bear - ing fruit in word and deed.



This text, selected as the winner in a regional Hymn Society competition seeking contemporary Marian hymns, portrays Mary's many roles in fulfilling God's promise. The author is an Adrian Dominican sister whose ministry has focused on worship and the arts.

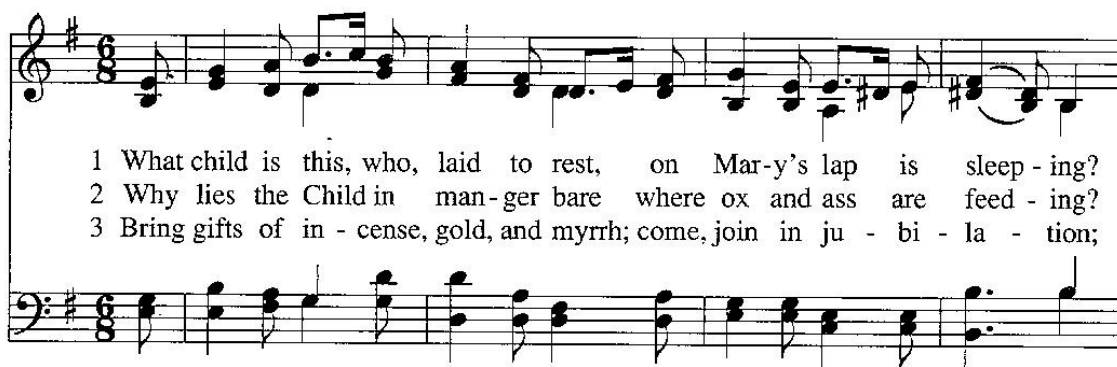
Tune: QUEM PASTORES 8.7.8.7.
 German carol, 14th century
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

What Child Is This

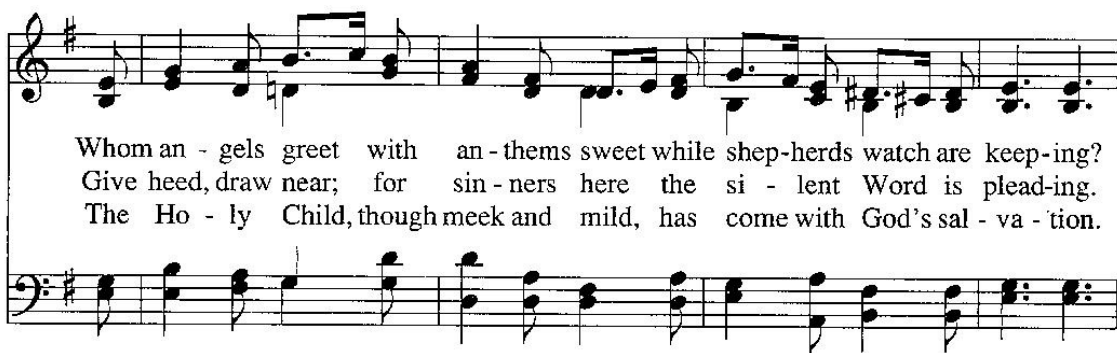
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William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

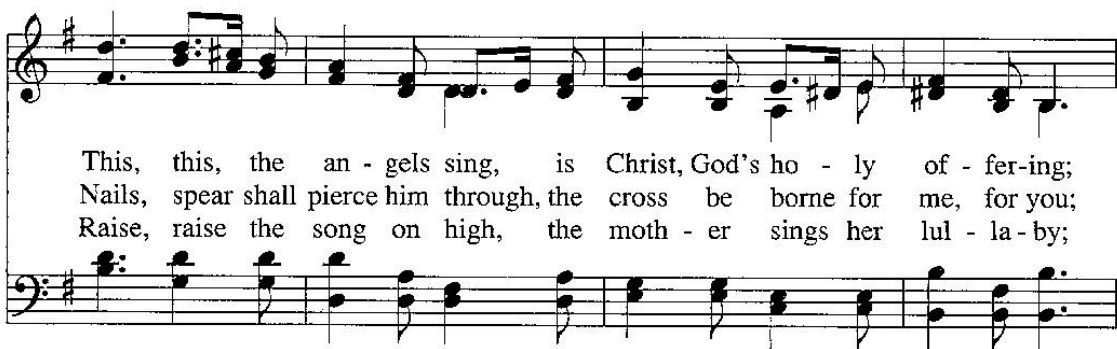
Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34



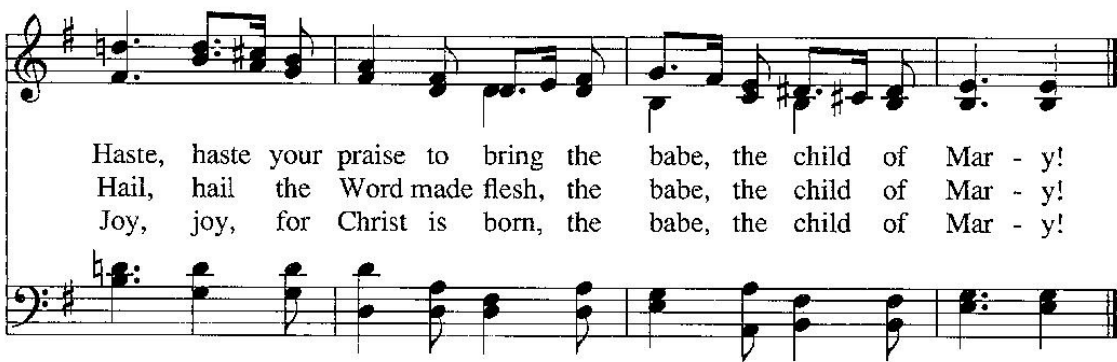
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man-ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century

Who we are...

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

The prophet Malachi says that God is "like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap." Reflect on events of the past year. How has God been working to refine and purify your life or your community of faith? Paul writes to the church at Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." Think about people in your life for whom you give thanks, who have been in your prayers, and who have brought good news and joy to you this year. Consider writing them a letter or card to express your gratitude.

Household Prayer: Morning

Blessed are you, Lord God: by your tender mercy the dawn breaks upon us. Guide our feet this day in paths of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Blessed are you, Lord God: for you have smiled on us this day and redeemed us from our sin. Give light to all who wait in darkness until we rest with you in perfect peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is still speaking,